

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: PRESS SPECULATION ON THE
BRITISH ROLE IN RHODESIA

DEPT PASS LONDON

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

1. DAVID SPANIER'S NOV 22 PIECE IN THE LONDON TIMES,
THE LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL OF THE SAME DATE, AND BRIDGET
BLOOM'S LONG PIECE ON BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN
RHODESIA INDICATE THAT SOMEONE IN LONDON IS BACKGROUNDING
THE PRESS. RICHARD AND DENNIS GRENNAN SAID AS MUCH
TODAY WHEN I ASKED THEM. THEY ASSURE ME, HOWEVER,
THAT NEITHER BLOOM NOR SPANIER HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY
THE DELEGATION HERE. RICHARD BELIEVES THAT PRESS
COMMENT ON BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES IS HELPFUL-
ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. GRENNAN ADDED THAT A GREAT
DEAL MORE WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE BEFORE BROAD BRITISH
SUPPORT FOR AN ACTIVE ROLE IN RHODESIA WAS DEVELOPED.

2. GRENNAN AGREED THAT BRIDGET BLOOM'S NOV 23 PIECE
ON ADJOURNMENT WAS MOST UNHELPFUL AS IT WOULD SIGNAL
TO SOME OF THE NATIONALISTS THERE MAY BE ANY EASY
WAY OUT OF THEIR PRESENT DILEMMA. HE ASSURED ME
THAT BLOOM'S SOURCES FOR THIS ARTICLE WERE NOT
TO BE FOUND IN GENEVA. CATTO

SECRET

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